

News *fire information*

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Fall Prescribed Burns Planned for Color Country

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Contacts: David Eaker 435-772-7811
Anne Stanworth 435-865-3032
David Boyd 435-688-3303
Scott Clemans 928-643-8172

Cedar City, Utah...Residents of northern Arizona and southern Utah spent most of the summer of 2005 concerned about wildfires, some of which forced the evacuation of homes at Dammeron Valley, Motoqua, Shivwits and Gunlock. To reduce the future wildland fire risk to people and property, the agencies of the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area are planning to conduct prescribed burns at 38 locations this fall.

Throughout the summers of 2004 and 2005, fuel breaks created in previous years by burning and cutting vegetation near communities paid off. Although many primary residences were seriously threatened, only one was lost to a wildfire breakout in Color Country's largest fire season on record.

The primary objective of each of these new fuels projects is to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire affecting neighboring communities, but many of the projects are also designed to restore ecosystem health by improving wildlife habitat for species such as the mule deer, sage grouse and wild turkey.

These prescribed fires will be conducted in accordance with land and resource management plans, public health considerations such as smoke issues and approved prescribed fire plans. The projects vary in size from small burns less than 25 acres to the 6000 acre Horse Valley prescribed burn southeast of Circleville, Utah.

The Color Country Interagency Fire Management Organization is group of fire management officials in southwestern Utah and the Arizona Strip who promote safe and effective fire management through interagency cooperation.

For more information concerning fire management in Color Country and to see a list of the proposed prescribed fires, visit our website at www.utahfireinfo.gov, or contact any of the following agencies.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (St. George)	435 674-9720
Bureau of Land Management (Cedar City)	435 586-2401
Bureau of Land Management (Arizona Strip)	435 688-3200
Dixie National Forest	435 865-3700
National Park Service (Zion National Park)	435 772-3256
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (Cedar City)	435 586-4408